

S/N: 10/824,406

Atty Dkt No. GP-302549 / GM0249PUS-1

REMARKS

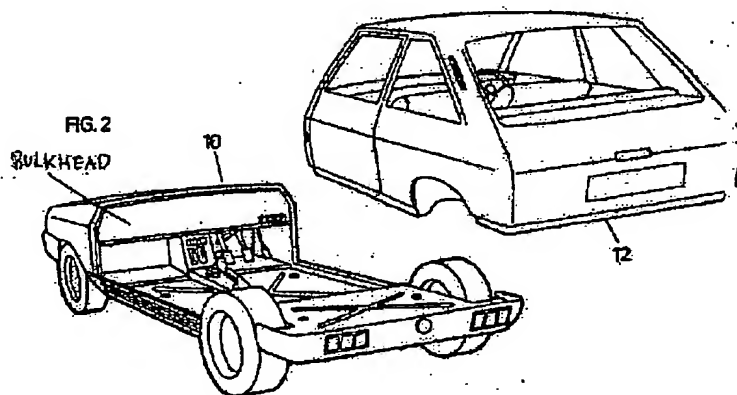
The following remarks are intended to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2004.

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Paton (GB 2207096). Claims 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paton in view of Bonfilio et al (4,442,685). Applicants have cancelled claims 12-19.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b) – Claims 1-4

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Paton. Claim 1 recites a “vehicle body configured for attachment to a chassis” including “a body floor configured to extend substantially the entire length of the chassis.” (underlining added for emphasis).

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner states that “Paton discloses ... a body floor configured to extend substantially the entire length of the chassis.” However, it is apparent that any body floor of Paton does not extend substantially the entire length of the chassis. More specifically, Paton discloses a “wheeled chassis 10, incorporating the mechanical and electrical functions and a body 12.” Paton, page 2, lines 2-3. Applicants reproduce Figure 2 of Paton below, which depicts the chassis 10 separated from the body 12:



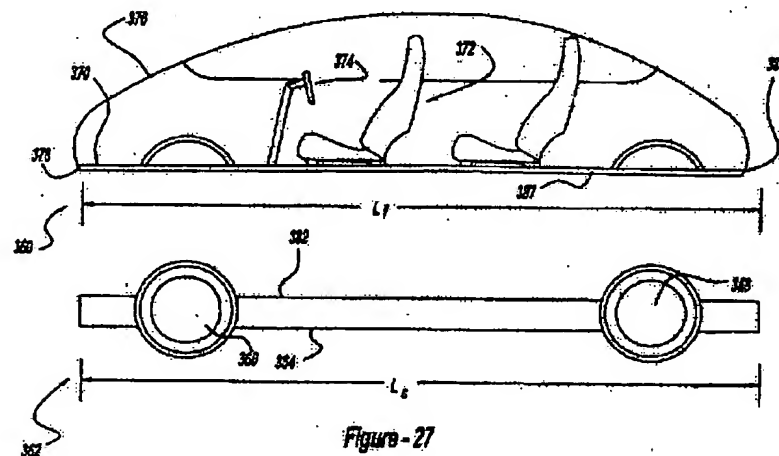
S/N: 10/824,406

Atty Dkt No. GP-302549 / GM0249PUS-1

It is apparent from Figure 2 of Paton that the body floor of Paton does *not* "extend substantially the entire length of the chassis," as recited by Applicants' claim 1. Rather, the floor of the body 12 of Paton cannot extend forward of a chassis bulkhead (which Applicants have labeled in the reproduction of Figure 2 shown above) that extends vertically from the chassis 10.

Indeed, with reference to Figure 1 of Paton, no part of vehicle body 12 extends forward of the chassis bulkhead when the body 12 is attached to the chassis 10. Moreover, the front fenders, hood, and engine compartment of Paton, i.e., those components forward of the bulkhead, cannot be considered a "body floor." Accordingly, the floor of Paton's body 12 does not "extend substantially the entire length of the chassis 10."

Applicants reproduce Figure 27 of the present application below:



In contrast with Paton, the floor 370 of the body 360 extends substantially the entire length of the chassis 362; i.e., floor length L_f is substantially equal to the length of the chassis L_c .

S/N: 10/824,406

Atty Dkt No. GP-302549 / GM0249PUS-1

Thus, claim 1 recites at least one limitation that is neither expressly nor inherently disclosed by Dower. For a rejection under 35 USC § 102(b) to be proper, **each and every element** set forth in a claim must be **expressly or inherently** described in a single prior art reference. See MPEP § 2131. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 is improper.

Claims 2-4 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Furthermore, claim 2 recites an "interface ... configured to conform to a standardized interface system wherein ... electrical connection components of the body and chassis complement each other." (underlining added for emphasis). The Examiner states that Paton discloses an "interface system wherein mechanical and electrical connection components of the body and chassis complement each other." However, Paton does not disclose "electrical connection components" of a "body and chassis [that] complement each other," as recited by claim 2. Indeed, Paton discloses no electrical connection components on vehicle body 12. Moreover, Paton does not disclose any electrical components on the body 12. Accordingly, claim 2 is not anticipated by Paton, and the rejection of claim 2 is improper.

If the Examiner maintains the position that Paton teaches a vehicle body having an "interface ... configured to conform to a standardized interface system wherein ... electrical connection components of the body and chassis complement each other," as recited by claim 2, then Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner either cite text from Paton to indicate where Paton expressly teaches such electrical connection components of the body or, alternatively, show that such connections are necessary, as required for a finding of inherency.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b) – Claims 5-11

Claim 5 recites a body having "a chassis-attachment interface connected to the enclosure and configured for selective attachment to the chassis, said chassis-

S/N: 10/824,406

Atty Dkt No. GP-302549 / GM0249PUS-1

attachment interface being configured to conform to a standardized interface system wherein mechanical and electrical connection components of the body and chassis complement each other.” (underlining added for emphasis). Accordingly, the analysis presented for claim 2 also applies to claim 5, and therefore Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 5 is improper.

Claims 6-11 ultimately depend from claim 5 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 5 is allowable.

Furthermore, claim 6 recites “a floor which extends substantially the entire length of the chassis.” Accordingly, the analysis presented for claim 1 also applies to claim 6, and therefore Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 6 is improper. Applicants note that the Examiner states that “[t]he enclosure is supported by a floor which extends substantially the entire length of the body.” (underlining added for emphasis). However, Applicants note that claim 6 recites that the floor extends the entire length of the chassis, not the body.

Also, claim 9 recites “at least one releasable connector for releasably attaching the enclosure to the floor.” The Examiner states that Paton “teaches an enclosure connected to the floor for sheltering occupants within the body,” but fails to address “at least one releasable connector for releasably attaching the enclosure to the floor.” Paton may teach connectors for connecting a *body* 12 to a *chassis* 10, but Paton does not teach “at least one releasable connector for releasably attaching the enclosure to the floor,” as recited by claim 9.

CONCLUSION

This Amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2004. The remarks in support of the rejected claims are believed to place this application in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

S/N: 10/824,406

Atty Dkt No. GP-302549 / GM0249PUS-1

Respectfully submitted

ADRIAN B. CHERNOFF ET AL

By Robert C. Corbett

Robert C. Corbett
Reg. No. 51,089
Attorney for Applicant

Date: March 21, 2005

QUINN LAW GROUP, PLLC
39555 Orchard Hill Place, Suite 520
Novi, MI 48375
Phone: 248-380-9300
Fax: 248-380-8968

On behalf of:

Kathryn A. Marra
GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION
Legal Staff Mail Code 482-C23-B21
P.O. Box 300
Detroit, Michigan 48265-3000